

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00848 211535Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

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SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 211501Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3406

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0848

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

1. DR. HEINRICH FREIHERR VON LERSNER, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE (FEA) IN BERLIN TOLD MISSION OFFICER MAY 20 THAT HE HAD BEEN IN BONN MAY 18-19 TO BRIEF NEW INTERIOR MINISTER MAIHOFFER ABOUT STATUS OF FEA. VON LERSNER EXPECTS LAW ESTABLISHING FEA TO PASS BUNDESTAG BEFORE SUMMER VACATION AND FELT THAT TIME IS PROPITIOUS TO ESTABLISH FEA QUICKLY IN HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH GENSCHER SO SOON AFTER HE BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. VON LERSNER, WHO IS FDP MEMBER, SAID THAT WHILE MAIHOFFER WAS NOT AS INVOLVED WITH FEA AS GENSCHER, HE WAS KNOWLEDGABLE AND SYMPATHETIC TO PROJECT. HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER PLANS TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH WHEN FEA WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN BERLIN, GIVEN ALL THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, IT WAS NOW AGREED THAT OPENING WOULD BE IN VERY LOW-KEY. KLEIN

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